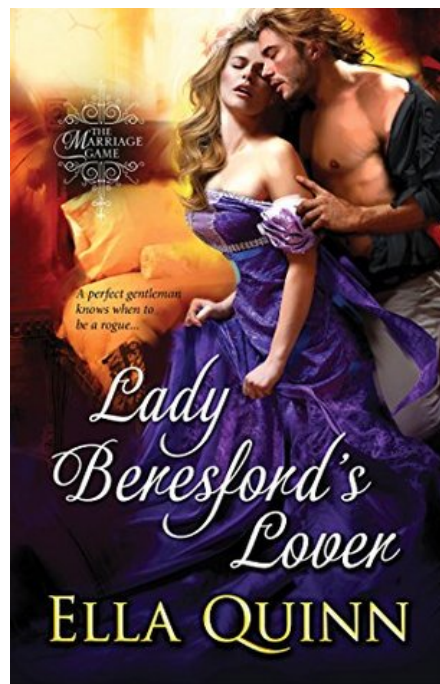




Lady Beresford's Lover

Ella Quinn

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Lady Beresford's Lover Ella Quinn

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After a painful heartbreak, Rupert, the handsome young Earl of Stanstead, has decided that when it comes to love, avoidance is best. Until he meets a woman who makes him forget his plan—and remember his longing for a wife and family. Yet he senses that she too has been hurt, though she attempts to hide her feelings—and more—in the most baffling and alluring way. Intrigued, Rupert is willing to play along, if winning her is the prize...

Crushed by her late husband's scorn, Vivian, Countess of Beresford, believes she is monstrously undesirable. Sadly childless, she has moved to London resigned to a solitary life. Still, when she encounters Rupert at a masquerade ball, her disguise as Cleopatra emboldens her. Convinced he doesn't recognize her, she begins an after-hours affair with him, always in costume—while allowing him to innocently court the real her by day. But when Rupert makes a shocking choice, will Vivian be able to handle the truth?...

Lady Beresford's Lover Details

Date : Published July 21st 2015 by Lyrical Press

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Author : Ella Quinn

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From Reader Review Lady Beresford's Lover for online ebook

Shauni says

Originally Reviewed For: Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

Thank you Ella Quinn! I fell in love with her Marriage Game Series way back with The Temptation of Lady Serena, Book 3 (It took until book three because I missed books 1 and 2). Not every book in the series has been my favorite but all of them have been fun and Lady Beresford's Lover is no different.

Vivian, Countess of Beresford has been betrayed one too many times and after finally loosing her dispicable husband she is free. Only she has no clue what she really wants. What she doesn't want is a handsome younger man (by a year or two) who is adored by society. What she doesn't want is to fall in love with a man while pretending she's someone else and seducing him.. what she doesn't want... *grins* Ok, what she wants is for the oh so charming Rupert, the handsome young Earl of Stanstead to fall in love with the real her. To choose her.

Rupert, the handsome young Earl of Stanstead had his heart broke.. which made him decide that marriage wasn't it for him, at least not yet. But one look at Vivian and he's smitten. The real woman is it for him. Only he has no clue how to tell her. She seems to be constantly putting him off. When they meet at a masquerade ball Vivian convinces herself to take a chance.. When Rupert received her summons the next day, he is lost. Only later to discover that she thinks, he thinks he is sleeping with someone else. Now his complications have complications.

What Ms. Quinn does so very well is tangle the knots. Taking a simple, direct situation and turning it Gordian. What a gift! Her books stay with a reader and every time I pick up a new one I fall in love all over again. Lady Beresford's Lover is a perfect example. Two people who are perfect for each other, who like each other, who society can accept together.. this should be a two page book.. Ok, two sentence book. But Nope, it's a comedy of errors, a tragedy of desire, a... Yep it's just a really really really good book.

Once again Ella Quinn reminds me why I fell in love.

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of Lady Beresford's Lover, provided by netgalley and is scheduled to be released on July 21, 2015

Elaine says

This series is bloody marvellous.

I love this story - it's exquisite. Love everything about it...storyline, characters. A very superior Regency romance, and more.

Brenda says

Synopsis:

Ella Quinn's bachelors are quite sure of what they want in life—and love—until the right woman opens their eyes...

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Crushed by her late husband's scorn, Vivian, Countess of Beresford, believes she is monstrously undesirable. Sadly childless, she has moved to London resigned to a solitary life. Still, when she encounters Rupert at a masquerade ball, her disguise as Cleopatra emboldens her. Convinced he doesn't recognize her, she begins an after-hours affair with him, always in costume—while allowing him to innocently court the real her by day. But when Rupert makes a shocking choice, will Vivian be able to handle the truth?...

When I received this book, I was a little concerned to find out it was book 7 of a series- I always read these things in proper order and had not read all of the previous books. I didn't need to worry because while it wasn't strictly a stand-alone, enough information was given about characters from previous books to make sense when we meet them in this book.

My Thoughts:

I felt that the dialog was well written in a very natural style. The Hero was wonderful. He was very mature in spite of his youth, and knew what he wanted in his life and he wanted our heroine as soon as he met her. He wasn't afraid of love or marriage. This was simply refreshing. Our poor heroine however, has a real aversion to marriage, and very low self-esteem. Her first husband, because he was in love with another woman, verbally and emotionally abused her throughout their marriage, telling her that she is "deformed" and undesirable. The author skillfully portrays the heroine's gradual blossoming under the Hero's gentle care and respect. There are no murders, kidnappings, woman in jeopardy, or dark villainy. This is just a warm hearted feel-good story.

I received this book free from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Dolly says

The whole identity plot point was incredibly tiring.

Sandy N says

Great book great story

Chris says

Vivian, the very proper widow of an unhappy arranged marriage receives an unwanted proposition from her dead husband's heir and leaves for London.

The young Rupert, Earl of Stanstead is ready to marry, but is not taken seriously by the Ton due to his youth.

Cressida thinks the Earl would make a fine husband and begins plotting.

It's the marriage mart during the 'little season' and anything can happen.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

I am not sure I can say enough about Ella Quinn... I love her writing! I have read all of This Series "The Marriage Game" and have loved every one of them. The books are set up that you don't have to have read them all or in any order so don't let this make you pause. I really felt for the heroine : Vivian had been Married before and she had a terrible time of it. So she wasn't interested in marrying again... but of course the hero changed her mind. The hero Rupert was a good strong charector that I really liked. I would say that I prefer older male characters but I did fall in love with him! The secondary characters were the best too! This is a must read and a great read!!

Evelyn says

Originally reviewed for www.buriedunderromance.com

LADY BERESFORD'S LOVER, the eighth book in the Marriage Game series by Ella Quinn, is a true mixed bag. There were things about the book that I really liked, and there were things about the book that I really did not like. Before I get into details, let me clarify that I have not read the other books in the series. It is quite possible that I may have understood this book better had I had the background from the other novels. First, what I did like: I liked that the main character was not perfect. Vivian, the Lady Beresford, unlike most romantic heroines, was not really beautiful. She was very thin and had an ordinary face. Her self-esteem suffered greatly after her first husband called her disgusting and refused to sleep with her shortly after their wedding. Due to his verbal abuse, she came to believe that she was actually somehow deformed. Sadly, she carried this mental image of herself long after his death.

Rupert, the Lord Stanstead, the hero, was very young, although in some ways, he seemed far older than his 22 yrs. He had already proven to be a leader in some political matters. While he didn't completely understand Vivian's body image issues and her reluctance to be intimate with him, he was incredibly patient and supportive of her. When he finally found out how damaged her self-image actually was, he made her confront it head-on but in a very gentle and loving way.

What I didn't like: The whole masquerade storyline. Sorry. I just didn't buy it. Any of it.

There are several sub-plots going on throughout the book, and there are many supporting characters. This was also a mixed-bag. Some of the sub-plots were interesting and some were just silly. Some of the characters were necessary to move the plot along, but some of the characters just seemed to pop out of nowhere and for no reason. Characters from other novels in the series, perhaps?

So, all in all, would I recommend LADY BERESFORD'S LOVER? Sure. The book is entertaining and it holds your interest. Just don't try to take it too seriously. For all of its ups and downs, I'm giving it three stars.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Ellen Klock says

What I like best about the Marriage Game series is that by Book #7 the reader knows the players. Ella Quinn has cultivated our acquaintance with a myriad of characters by layering one story atop another. Over the three plus years which these books span we have developed friendships, even with those who play a minor part in the various plotlines, such as Lady Bellamny, a leading patroness of society (also referred to as the dragon lady), who always seems to make an appearance somewhere in the story. Then there is grandmotherly Lady Beaumont who enjoys subtle matchmaking, and we can't forget poor widower Lord Blumly, fat and farty with a passel of kids back home, who is persistently searching for a potential wife but quickly dismissed as a prospect by our protagonists. Since so many of the characters are related, either cousins or aunts or inlaws, one must make an effort to keep them all straight. Of course, with each additional novel comes a whole host of new cast members, some who complement the crowd while others play the villain.

Lady Beresford Lover occurs during London's Little Season in 1817. The recently widowed Vivian, Countess of Beresford, is ready to move on with her life after her disastrous marriage to Edgar, a man who flaunted his long standing mistress throughout the township. Edgar was turned off by Vivian's hidden imperfections, so now she wants to swear off men and settle down in her own household. Yet, she feels an attraction, a mutual chemistry, with young Lord Rupert, Earl of Stanstead. Rupert is actively looking for a wife, not just any woman, but one who can support his career in Parlement as well as enjoy life at his country estate. However, of utmost importance is to discover a soulmate to love and cherish. Burnt once in a previous relationship, Rupert is proceeding cautiously, but his heart keeps leading him back to Vivian.

Vivian and companion Silvia are all set to enjoy the whirlwind of entertainments which London has to offer sponsored by understanding Cousin Clara, the Dowager Marchioness of Telford. With her new friends Phoebe and Serena looking on, Vivian is courted by the handsome Rupert. There is also a subplot where Nicholas, the new Earl of Beresford, attempts to make amends for his cousin's behaviors by proposing to Vivian even though he is in love with Silvia. Somehow, he becomes close friends with Rupert and together they provide the necessary support for each other's endeavors to convince the reluctant damsels they are serious suitors. Since this is a Regency Romance written by Ella Quinn, the reader should expect some trauma (and risqué behaviors) before a happy ending is reached with some assistance from the various protagonists found in the earlier books of the Marriage Game series.

This ones a keeper. The wager made at Anna's wedding is complete, but that doesn't mean there aren't future romances on the horizon. Kit's little sister is still without a betrothal and Nicholas' best friend, Damon, the Marquis of Hawksworth (godson to Lady Belamny) seems to have an interesting backstory to be explored. (And yes, I do keep notes to avoid confusion). Suggestion to Ella Quinn - we need a family tree along with a Who's Who for this series. It's just getting too complicated to easily keep everybody straight, but we definitely want more. After all, it's only 1817 and there's some twenty more years of the Regency Era to explore. Four stars.

A thank you to Netgalley and Lyrical Press Books for letting me download this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Claudine says

Rupert is a sweet considerate old soul for a young Earl who knows what he wants and is determined to have Vivian as he patiently goes along with her requests with the expectation of winning her heart. Poor Vivian was emotionally beat down by her nasty deceased husband the Earl of Beresford because he was resentful over their arranged marriage. Rupert diligently works to help Vivian overcome her self impression and blossom into the person he knew she could become.

Georgie says

This is a digestive biscuit of a Regency Romance - it meets the legal definition of a biscuit in all regards except that of being enjoyable. There's no one thing that makes this a boring book: the writing style is perfectly competent (uninspired, maybe, but competent) and the characters are all sweetly well-intentioned.

Perhaps that's what I'm missing - some sense of conflict. The hero, Rupert, falls in love with Vivian almost at first sight and she with him; the only things keeping them apart are (view spoiler) Oh, and she is deformed (her word) and fit for no decent man's bed because (view spoiler). And also - goodness, did I say there was no conflict in this book? - she is (view spoiler) Then there is the little matter of her father's plans for her....

I must not omit to mention the two other courtships that take place in the book. This is an author who likes to make her characters happy, and a secondary character can barely raise a glass of champagne without his/her future mate being hinted at.

This all makes for a busy book, but, because the central characters are really not very well characterised, and the plot is a series of spurious constructs, there isn't much driving the narrative forwards. Avoid this, and find something with a bit more spice to it.

Eileen Dandashi says

Have you even been in the position where your head tells you what to do which isn't the same as what your heart demands of you? A conundrum indeed, facing lovely Lady Beresford.

Whenever I want to read a regency romance fast-paced, with charming and sometimes conniving characters leading to rather ticklish silly scenes, I needn't look further than one of Ella Quinn's delightful stories in The Marriage Game series. Her characters are a bit rakish, even the women, yet they settle themselves into the rules of the ton...eventually.

This read was a multi-layered love story making it very lively. We have the main heroine, Vivian, now the widowed Countess of Beresford, who is glad her husband is dead (she dare not say it, but I can), but truly he wasn't the type of husband any woman would want. Now she has her chance to be out in the world, a widow, following the rules of the ton for widows, which is extremely lax. I wonder who made those rules anyway? Men had their proper mistresses and women didn't lack for bed partners. But Vivian didn't want bed partners, she wanted a home of her own, to decorate as she saw fit, to come and go as she chose. She didn't

need her father interfering with her life and choosing another catastrophic choice of a husband again.

Rupert, Earl of Stanstead, was a bit young to be looking for a wife. He saw his friends all around with wonderful marriages. His mother and father even had a love match. Although his first go-around, thinking he was in love, turned out rather poorly, he didn't want to give up. So this Season he would open his eyes, follow his friends and father's advice and find the woman who basically pulls him in where he becomes obsessed with her. I really liked Rupert, because he was sweet, a fun sense of humor, a romantic at heart, politically engaged with social issues, had lots of respect from his peers and acted much older than his young years.

Vivian found what she wasn't looking for, but possibly needed. She did want to know what a real kiss would be like, how a man's body feels, that is to say, everything she didn't experience in her first marriage. But how to do that with Rupert, when she was so terribly deformed? After seeing Rupert at a masquerade ball, dressed as Cleopatra and he as Anthony she came up with the brilliant idea to continue the kisses she secretly received and delighted in, but remain in costume, not disrobing for fear she wouldn't be able to learn the secrets of his and her own body. She leases a townhouse, using it as Cleo with the help of her maid, asking Anthony to visit her. Her naïveté is charming. She thinks Rupert doesn't know who she is. Rupert, of course, knows who she is, has already decided he's obsessed so goes along with her scheme. This is where I really fall in love with Rupert. What a keeper!

Cousin Clara, the all-seeing, sponsoring Vivian and her friend Sylvia for the season, is a most charming and opinionated woman and very much the match maker as grandmamas of the ton were. I thoroughly enjoyed her part in the story.

I mentioned this was a multi-layered story which makes me feel I'm watching different rings at a circus. It is really a hilarious, whirlwind read. Somehow all the threads of the story are all tied up in a most satisfactory end. There were quite a few happy ever afters in this one.

What is not to like in Ms Quinn's writing? Notta!

I received a complimentary copy from the publisher thru NetGalley for an honest review.

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW

Book Seven in Ella Quinn's Marriage Games series. Ella Quinn is good about writing books in a series but also they can be read as stand-alone. I liked it it was entertaining and witty; the characters are great I love them but the story just okay. I liked the secondary story of Silvia and Nick more than I liked Vivian and Rupert story.

Lady Vivian, The Countess of Beresford, is glad her husband is dead and that her mourning period is finally over. She has plans of owning a house away from her late husbands family and the embarrassment that comes with being his widow and having one last season in London before her self imposed seclusion. She doesn't think that finding a lover is a good idea because her husband deep scorn and has disillusioned Vivian; she thinks her body to be deformed and thinks that no man will want her after they see her deformity under her clothes. So when Rupert the Earl of Stanstead shows interest she can't help but return his flirtation.

Rupert doesn't care that everyone says he is too young to settle down, he is ready. He inherited his title

young and everyone still thinks him young and they keep bringing that up. (I thought, up until they said Vivian's age, that Rupert was quite a bit younger than Vivian; that is how often they brought it up.) Rupert was interested in one young lady but she made the decision to marry someone else, and even though his feelings were hurt he wasn't heart broken. His father told him he would know the right woman when he sees her. When he sees Vivian across a crowded room he believes what his father told him. He won't let Vivian go now that he has found her. Sporadically through the book and so little of it and it doesn't really affect the story is a young twat who is determined to trap Rupert into marriage. I think the only purpose is to set up for another story, but I could have done without it.

The secondary story is between the new Beresford, Nick, and Silvia is a second chance story about deception, lies and manipulation. I kind of wish it was a stand alone book but it ties in so perfectly with the main story. Vivian is oblivious she decides she wants to overcome her fear of intimacy due to her "malformation" and seduce Rupert under the guise of Cleopatra. At a masquerade, coincidentally, they dress as Cleopatra and Marc Antony. Vivian doesn't realize he knows it's her and she becomes jealous of her own alter ego. Rupert works hard to prove that Vivian is the beauty he sees and her husband was a fool and everything is good until Vivian's idiot of a father tries to marry/ sell her off to another bastard.

Overall, it's not one of my favorites so far but it is a good book.

eyes.2c says

...tender and troubled

When Rupert, the Earl of Stanstead, spies Vivian, the widowed Countess of Beresford, across the crowded ballroom, he cannot take his eyes off her.

Vivian, has fled to London to avoid the importuning of her husband's cousin, the new Lord Beresford, for her hand in marriage.

Her marriage had been such a disaster that Vivian has determined to never remarry.

Belittled by him, Vivian is convinced that she is less than desirable and somehow deformed. It takes the careful courting and loving of Rupert for her to come into her own as a woman.

After a masquerade ball, where Vivian attends as Cleopatra and Rupert as Anthony, Vivian decides to enter into a clandestine affair with him as her alter ego, Cleopatra. Vivian is convinced that Rupert doesn't know her true identity. Rupert of course knows exactly who she is.

I must admit that this is where I am bemused by Vivian's thinking. How does she think Rupert will not find out who she is in the intimacy of their situation. Ah well, Makeup and a barely lit room can work wonders! Marriage to Rupert though is another question. Adore him as Vivian does, she will not tie him to a woman who is older, less than perfect, and without the connections he needs. So by day Rupert courts her openly and by night he courts her lustily without letting on that he knows exactly who she is. Very exhausting!

A NetGalley ARC

Heather andrews says

Rupert was such a nice guy always giving compliments to his woman, "reaching out his hand, he stroked Vivian's cheek with his finger, interrupting her flow of words. "The gown is beautiful on you." Her breath

hitched. "And much softer." Willing to give anything for her, "then we shall." He covered her hand with his and smiled with his eyes as well as his lips. "As long as you are with me, you can do what you wish." I liked this book Rupert was a great guy.
